

XXIX.—A HAMADRYAD'S (*NAIA BUNGARUS*) NEST AND EGGS.*(With a plate).*

1. On 7th June 1936 I was walking through fairly open moist bamboo forest at about 2,000 ft. elevation near Anisakan (some 8 miles from Maymyo) in the Mandalay District, Burma. Noticing a rather curious looking heap of dead leaves close to the rough track I was following I thrust a small cane into the heap. Immediately a snake's head shot out from the top of the heap and, as quickly disappeared. Having no gun and being with a picnic party I decided to leave well alone for the time being.

On 11th June 1936 I returned to the place accompanied by Mr. T. S. Thompson, Divisional Forest Officer, Maymyo, and some followers. Mr. Thompson and I posted ourselves on one side of the heap whilst our men cautiously pushed a long bamboo into it from another quarter. The snake soon emerged from the top of the heap and we shot it. It was a hamadryad measuring 7 ft. 5 in.

We then proceeded to examine the heap which was about 1 ft. 9 in. in height and 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter. Within this heap of dead leaves was the nest proper. It was placed on the ground and comprised a compact mass of dead bamboo and other leaves and a few small twigs and leaf stalks. Externally it measured about 1 ft. 7 in. in diameter and 9 in. deep. It was a comparatively solid structure and could be lifted off the ground without its falling to pieces. In the centre was a cup about 8 in. in diameter and about 8 in. deep.

Within the nest were twentyseven eggs, white, soft-shelled and measuring about 55 by 27 mm. The eggs were comparatively fresh and in some cases stuck lightly together. Above the eggs there was a compact covering of dead bamboo leaves which filled in the cup of the nest flush with the edges. Upon this nest, though separated from the eggs the snake had evidently been lying coiled up. The leaves forming the mound covered the snake and nest and they were lying loosely as compared with the solid and almost woven nature of the nest proper.

It is interesting to note that fourteen people accompanied by seven dogs twice passed at different times within two yards of the nest and yet the hamadryad failed to show itself and the nest remained undiscovered until I prodded the heap of leaves with a small cane.

H. C. SMITH, I.F.S.

A HAMADRYAD'S NEST AND EGGS.

2. The incident described below took place in July 1927 in the Tharrawaddy District of Lower Burma.

I was returning in the afternoon along a footpath to the forest rest house at Thapangyaunggyi, a small village situated on the banks of the Taungnyo stream in the foothills of the Pegu Yomas,

A HAMADRYAD'S NEST.



Nest and eggs removed from *situ* with dead snake; eggs not touched and nest not unduly tampered with.